



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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Editor: Mick Klemesrud, 515/281-8653
mick.klemesrud@dnr.state.ia.us

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[Hold Until Oct. 12]

DEER SEASON UNDERWAY, PRESEASON BOW CARE

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Whether actively hunting or just doing some in season scouting, the woods are getting busy these days. Bow deer hunters have a variety of choices each season; not just ‘doe or buck?’, but weather conditions ranging from late summer to mid winter. Often the big decision is ‘how many days of work to miss?’ in pursuit of Iowa’s biggest game animal.

With a distinct change in deer behavior coming in the days ahead, some trophy hunters embrace the first couple weeks. “If you are patterning deer, this is an ideal time to take that animal,” agrees Willy Suchy, deer research biologist for the Department of Natural Resources. “They are in their late summer patterns and are pretty predictable. A good place is to set up between food sources and bedding areas. In hot, dry weather, locating near water is a good idea, too.”

Checking a couple stands and trimming shooting lanes in the last days of September, I counted four scrapes as I worked back out of the woods. In a new stand a week later, I saw only the top of one antlerless head walking through the multiflora rose. It’s back to the first location this week.

“It’s a very good time to be out now,” agrees DNR district wildlife supervisor Jim Jansen. “Some people actually manage for deer; getting some green browse growing out there, which encourages family groups--the does--to hang in there. The bucks will show up, too.” Jansen stresses controlling what you can; as far as food sources and

setting up downwind, or at least crosswind as deer approach. “Wind is number one. If you can beat the deer’s nose, you have a very good chance of getting a shot.”

In the days before the peak of the rut, food sources and bedding areas are focal points, especially if you can pin down a common travel corridor. “With that funnel, you can actually force the deer, by natural occurrence of the landscape, to go through a specific spot, where you can set a stand.”

As the crops come out and more acorns drop, those feeding patterns will shift. Then, the early days of November arrive. “There is a lot of movement in both does and bucks then. That’s when they become unpredictable,” admits Jansen. “There’s so much activity, you just have to be out there; Still, does are good to target. They have to eat, no matter what time of the year. The bucks will follow.”

Don’t Forget the Bow

With all the hours you put into scouting, shooting and sitting, it’s easy to forget that the most important tool of your hunt is, literally, in the palm of your hand. All your planning and preparation is wasted, if your bow doesn’t shoot straight. That compound bow has a lot of parts. And they are exposed to everything from being jammed into a closet for months to rain, snow, dirt and debris by late in the season.

“A lot of times, people don’t pay attention to it. They’ll get the bow out a couple weeks before the season (expecting everything to work),” said Cory Krull, at Fin & Feather Outdoor Store, in Iowa City. As he talked, he pointed out a hairline crack in the bow he was inspecting. It had been in a closet, with a broken bowstring since last year. “You shouldn’t shoot it for three or four years without having someone look at it. (Even) if the string is stretched a little, that will move the nock point and will affect arrow flight.” A preseason tune-up can correct problems with the cables, arrow rests and sights.

Krull also pointed out that a well-tuned bow will minimize the difference in flight between field points and broadheads. He suggests practice with broadheads—and outdoors in the wind and other elements—to learn where they will fly.

The tools of the trade have changed in the last decade, too. “Bows are shorter, axle to axle, now. And the limbs are more parallel. That cancels a lot of the vibration (on the release). It keeps the bow stable,” offered Kevin Shaw, working alongside Krull. Machined aluminum parts, ‘drop away’ arrow rests and better quality fiber optics for sights are other improvements he sees.

Simonson, Dorr Shooting Range to be Dedicated

Dedication of the Wendell Simonson and Tim Dorr Shooting Ranges will be held October 15 on the Hawkeye Wildlife Area, near Shueyville. After two years of work and a \$150,000 investment, the dozen shotgun stations and 100, 50 and 25-yard pistol/rifle lanes are open for target shooting and for sighting in firearms. The 1 p.m. ceremony will

be at the shotgun range along Amana Road SW, three miles west of Highway 965 and Cou Falls Road.

Work on the ranges was capped by an Eagle Scout project, directed by Caleb McDowall of Iowa City. With 20 people logging 172 hours, volunteers secured funding and installation for 12 cement pads and 80 tons of gravel for paths. Volunteers—through McDowall and Boy Scout Troop 250 of Iowa City--helped clean the sites as well and secured engraved commemorative rocks. One is in Simonson's name at the shotgun range, on the south side of Amana Road. The other is in Dorr's name on the rifle lanes, across the road and about 300 yards to the east. The late conservation officers were deeply involved in getting young people outdoors, as well as in conservation and law enforcement.

The revamped rifle range is at the site of the old 'shooting pit' on the Hawkeye Area. "People always left trash out here. Maybe with it clean, they'll treat it with more respect," offered McDowall about picking the shooting sites for his Eagle Project. Future plans include more canopy work and cement work. DNR wildlife biologist Tim Thompson emphasizes that if the area can remain reasonably clean, there will be no need to hire custodial help and charge fees for using the ranges.

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IOWA DNR TO FACILITATE OUTREACH MEETINGS IN THE FIVE PROTECTED WATER AREAS

The Iowa DNR will facilitate meetings at the five Protected Water Areas throughout the state. The five Protected Water Areas (PWA) were designated with public input as having outstanding cultural and natural resource values from 1985 through 1990 in accordance with Iowa Code. These consist of sections of the Wapsipinicon River, Upper Iowa River, Middle Raccoon River, Boone County River and Little Sioux River. These meetings will be attended by land and resource agency staff and are open to the public.

The purpose of these meetings is to gauge each area's current capacity and community interest in rivers as important natural resources. One existing Protected Water Area will be selected as a pilot project to update the management plan. The selected PWA will receive capacity-building assistance for support of cleaner water and leadership in protecting the river's most valuable natural qualities for future generations.

The dates, times and places for these meetings are as follows:

Wapsipinicon River

October 24 at 11 a.m., Pinicon Ridge Park, Horseshoe Falls Lodge, Central City

Upper Iowa River

October 25 at 10 a.m., USDA Service Center, Decorah

Boone County River

October 30 at 1:30 p.m., Briggs Woods Park Main Office Building, south of Webster City

Middle Raccoon River

November 7 at 10 a.m., Springbrook Conservation Education Center, north of Guthrie Center

Little Sioux River

November 9 at 1 p.m. Oneota Cabin at the Clay County Conservation Board Headquarters, in Spencer

For further information regarding these meetings, please contact Pat Weber, Protected Water Areas assistant, at (515) 281-0174.

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MEETING SET TO DISCUSS PROPOSED BIRD CONSERVATION AREA

COON RAPIDS – The public is invited to a meeting to discuss the proposed designation of an area of public and private land encompassing a 20 mile stretch of the Middle Raccoon River in Guthrie and Carroll counties as a state Bird Conservation Area (BCA). The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 24, at the City Council Chamber in the Coon Rapids Municipal Building, 123 3rd Street, Coon Rapids (corner of Main Street and 3rd).

Creating Bird Conservation Areas is a high priority for the Iowa DNR. The proposed Raccoon River Savanna BCA is a unique area offering a variety of habitats to a host of declining bird species, said Bruce Ehresman, biologist with the Iowa DNR's wildlife diversity program. "From grassland birds like bobolink and grasshopper sparrow, savanna species such as red-headed woodpecker and barn owl, to woodland species like bald eagle and wood thrush. The Middle Raccoon River and its surrounding uplands provides a perfect setting for what could be Iowa's tenth Bird Conservation Area," he said.

The BCA concept is focused on all-bird conservation at a landscape scale, and the program's success is dependent on partnership between public agencies, private conservation organizations, and private landowners. Each BCA consists of at least 10,000 acres consisting of one or more core areas of permanently protected bird habitat surrounded by large areas of privately owned land that also is good bird habitat.

The main core area for the proposed Raccoon River Savanna Bird Conservation Area is a large tract that Whiterock Conservancy will manage long-term "to preserve and enhance the area's natural resources through protecting and restoring diverse native habitats," Ehresman said. The land is now owned temporarily by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation while Whiterock Conservancy's incorporation is being approved.

"The DNR is excited about a partnership with Whiterock Conservancy and other area landowners. This is a great example of how habitat can be well-managed for birds without extensive government ownership of land," said Doug Harr, state coordinator for the wildlife diversity program.

For more information, contact Harr at 515-281-4815 or Ehresman at 515-432-2823

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NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION TO MEET OCT. 12 IN DUBUQUE

DES MOINES - The Natural Resource Commission of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will meet at 8:30 a.m., Oct. 12, at the E. B. Lyons Nature Center, Mines of Spain, in Dubuque.

Commission and DNR staff will meet at 11:15 a.m., Oct. 11, at the Heartland Inn, 2090 Southpark Court, in Dubuque, to travel to the Mississippi River Museum for a presentation and lunch, then leave at 1 p.m., for a tour of the area. The meeting and tour on both days are open to the public.

The E. B. Lyons Nature Center is at 8991 Bellevue Heights at the Mines of Spain.

Members of the NRC are Joan Schneider, Randy Duncan, Carol Kramer, Richard Francisco, Janice Marcantonio, Lennis Moore and Liz Garst. The DNR Director is Jeffrey Vonk.

The following is the agenda for the October meeting.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of Sept. 14 Meeting
- Director's Remarks
- Honey Creek Financing Documents
- Construction Projects
 1. Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery County – Gate Valve Repairs

2. Sedan Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, Appanoose County – Wetland Restoration
 3. Storm Lake Casino Bay Marina, Buena Vista County – Sewer Main Construction
 4. Manchester Fish Hatchery, Delaware County – Office/Hatchery Building Re-roof
 5. Black Hawk State Park, Sac. County – Campground Electrical Upgrade
 6. Heytman's Landing, Allamakee County – Channel Dredging
 7. Big Spring Fish Hatchery, Clayton County – Streambank Stabilization and Fishing Access
- Land Acquisition
 - A. Big Marsh Wildlife Management Area, Butler County – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation [INHF]
 - B. Upper Iowa River Wildlife Area, Winneshiek County – INHF
 - C. Swan Lake Wildlife Complex, Dickinson County - Petersen
 - Land Donations – IRS Implications
 - REAP Public/Private Cost-sharing Grants
 - REAP City Parks and Open Spaces Grants
 - REAP County Conservation Boards Grants
 - REAP Congress Recommendations for 2006
 - Notice of Intended Action – chapter 16, Public, Commercial, Private Docks and Dock Management Areas
 - Management Agreement Renewal with Dubuque County for Little Maquoketa River Mounds State Preserve
 - Contract Renewal for Olofson Shooting Range and Training Center
 - Appeal of Proposed Decision
 - Conservation and Recreation Donations
 - Timber Sales
 - A. Cardinal Marsh Wildlife Area, Winneshiek County
 - B. Sny Magill Wildlife Area, Clayton County
 - C. Sny Magill Wildlife Area, Clayton County [information]
 - D. North Bear Wildlife Area, Winneshiek County
 - REAP 2006 Conservation Education Grants
 - City of Dubuque and County Conservation Board Accomplishments with REAP
 - General Discussion
 - Items for Next Meeting, Nov. 9, in Des Moines

For more information, contact Karyn Stone at 515-281-8650.

###

IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of October 10, 2006

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This is the final fishing report until enough ice is present to support ice fishing.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River have stabilized at low levels once again. River stages are 4.1 feet at Guttenberg and 3.56 feet at Bellevue. Water temperature is 60 degrees at Guttenberg and 62 degrees at Bellevue and clarity is very good. Fishing has been picking up as the water temperature has cooled and the fish are putting on the feed bag heading into fall.

A few walleyes and saugers are being reported by anglers fishing minnows near the tips of the wing dams in **Pools 9 to 15**. Walleyes commonly use the outside tip of the wing dam during low flow conditions. You can also use three-way rigs or cast crankbaits along the wing dams for walleye. In **Pools 12 to 15**, sauger fishing is best in the tailwater areas and anglers have found three-way rigs with spinners or small floating crankbaits are working well for hungry saugers.

Bluegill fishing continues to be very good in **Pools 9 to 15** floating a piece of night crawler. You may have to sort out some smaller bluegills, but areas such as Bussey Lake (**Pool 10**) continue to produce nice bluegills. Other good locations for hungry bluegills include the backwater areas and side channels or sloughs with structure.

A few nice crappies are being caught in **Pools 9 to 11** using small minnows and fishing next to brush piles. Crappie fishing is better in **Pools 12 to 15** for anglers using minnows or small jigs fished around snags in the backwaters, side channels and sloughs. Crappies are suspended in 4 to 6 feet of water so adjust your bait until you can locate actively feeding fish.

Yellow perch fishing is fair next to brush piles for anglers in **Pools 9 to 11**. Small minnows are the best bet for catching yellow perch.

Smallmouth and white bass are biting on jigs and spinners fished in the tailwaters of Lynxville and Guttenberg (**Pools 10 and 11**). Look for schools of white bass working the shorelines. They can often be spotted along sandy stretches of the river.

Largemouth bass fishing is good in Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**), Harpers Slough (**Pool 10**) and Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**). Anglers are using spinner baits fished along fallen trees.

Cedar River (Mitchell, Floyd, Bremer and Black Hawk): Smallmouth bass fishing is good on jigs, spinner baits and crankbaits. Walleye fishing is good on night crawlers or jigs tipped with a night crawler fished on the bottom below the dams or in areas with rock or rip rapped shorelines.

Shell Rock River (Butler and Bremer): Smallmouth bass are hitting crankbaits and jigs. Walleye are being caught fishing night crawlers or jigs tipped with night crawlers. Concentrate on areas with rock or riprapped shorelines.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Smallmouth bass fishing is good using crawdad-colored crankbaits, jigs or live baits, such as night crawlers or minnows, fished along the rocky areas. The catch-and-release area below the Delhi Dam has the best habitat and the highest density of smallmouth bass. As the water temperature drops, live baits tend to work better for bass. A few walleyes are being caught fishing night crawlers along the bottom.

Turkey River (Fayette and Clayton): Smallmouth bass and walleyes are moving to their over-wintering areas and fishing is good using night crawlers or dark colored jigs.

Upper Iowa River (Howard, Winneshiek and Allamakee): Smallmouth bass fishing is good on dark colored jigs or live baits. Walleye fishing is good on dark colored jigs. Trout fishing is excellent near Volney.

Big Woods and Brinker lakes (Black Hawk): Fishing is good for 8 to 9-inch crappies casting jigs tipped with a minnow. Crappies are being caught in 8 to 10 feet of water; however, some are also found 20 feet down.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Fishing has slowed for all species.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Bluegills are biting on jigs near the shoreline. Anglers are also catching nice-sized largemouth bass.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Nice-sized largemouth bass are being caught along the dam on dark-colored jigs. Take along extra worms if you fish for bluegills and crappies as these fish are hungry and attacking baits fished along the shorelines.

Trout stream conditions are good to excellent and fishing for trout during this time of year is excellent. Fly fishers are using imitation grasshoppers, scuds and nymphs. Other anglers are most successful using spinners, jigs and live baits. Trout stockings in October are not announced; however, most streams are still being stocked at the same rate as they were in September. Fishing pressure is lower during October so many streams will maintain good, fishable populations of trout throughout the winter. You can't beat trout fishing in northeast Iowa in the fall. The ospreys and eagles are traveling through the state heading for their winter homes. Many eagles will over winter in northeast Iowa and can be seen throughout the winter.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing has been fair in the evenings casting jigs from shore around Buffalo Run, footbridge and Templar Park. Perch fishing has been fair around the weed lines in Anglers Bay, Marble Beach and in front of the pump house using minnows. Anglers are catching a few bullheads at the North Grade.

West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Some walleyes are being caught in the evening throwing shallow running crankbaits off docks and near rock points. Yellow perch fishing is good in Smith's Bay.

East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is good casting twisters and shallow running crankbaits on the south shoreline.

Little Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are catching a few crappies on jigs at the south end of the lake. Yellow perch are being caught around the lake.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Crappies are slow off the west stone pier on small lead heads under a bobber.

North Twin Lake (Calhoun): A few 10 to 12-inch yellow bass are being caught from shore on hook tipped with a small piece of night crawler laying on the bottom.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): White bass have been hitting on roostertail spinners and live minnows. A few legal walleyes have also been taken while fishing from shore.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass fishing has been fair to good on days with nice weather. The deeper water north of the Island, the artificial weed beds and the deeper rock reefs are producing the best. Yellow bass are being caught anchored and vertical jigging with minnows or night crawlers. Some wader anglers are catching yellow bass towards evening on the north shore.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Crappies are being caught from the jetties and docks on the south side of the lake. Small jigs and minnows are being used to catch 8 ½ to 10-inch crappies.

Indian Lake, in Eldred Sherwood Park (Hancock): Bluegills are hitting on a small piece of night crawler. Fish are being caught from the bank, near shore.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing has been slow to fair with jigs and minnows.

Hickory Grove (Story): Bluegill fishing has been fair with worms. Channel catfish fishing is fair using night crawlers and other traditional baits.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been fair using jigs or worms/hooks. Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good. Anglers report catching some nicer crappie with jigs.

Easter Lake (Polk): Bluegill fishing is slow to fair using night crawlers and bobbers. Channel catfish fishing has been good at night with night crawlers, chicken liver and chubs. Crappie fishing has been fair to good. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been fair to good with jigs and minnows. Catfish fishing has been slow using a variety of baits. Walleye fishing has been fair to good.

Below Saylorville Dam (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been fair using jigs and/or minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good with some good-sized fish.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been fair to good on jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing is fair to good with chicken liver. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair casting plugs.

Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been fair with the best fishing in the marina and Whitebreast areas. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Below Lake Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been fair with jigs in the tail-water area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been slow using jigs/minnows in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has good to excellent using a variety of baits.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent with night crawlers and other baits. Anglers also report catching some largemouth bass and crappies with jigs.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been slow with worms. Channel catfish fishing has been fair to good with night crawlers and chicken liver, and crappie fishing has been fair.

Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley (Union): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers, liver and prepared bait.

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is fair at the upper end using night crawlers or liver. The crappies are suspended in about 10 feet over the brush piles. Some walleye are starting to bite near the dam and around the steep points.

Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold): Bluegill, largemouth bass and crappie can be caught from the weed edges and lotus beds.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie are along the weed edges and can be caught using small jigs or night crawlers.

Little River (Decatur): Crappies can be caught drift fishing open water. Some walleyes can be caught from the dam and big points by trolling crankbaits.

Three Fires (Taylor): Anglers are catching 8 to 9-inch crappies by drift fishing open water.

Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Orient (Adair): Fishing has slowed for 2 to 3-pound channel catfish using night crawlers, liver or prepared baits in the evenings. Bluegills are fair using night crawlers with bobber and small jigs.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegills are fair using jigs tipped with night crawlers fishing structure and drift fishing. Fish in the 7 to 8-inch range are common. Channel catfish are fair using liver and prepared bait.

Nodaway (Adair): Channel catfish are fair on liver and prepared baits in shallow areas. A few bluegills are being caught using night crawlers and a bobber.

Meadow (Adair): Bluegills are fair using night crawlers around sunken trees and along dam. Crappies are fair around sunken trees using minnows. Channel catfish is fair using prepared baits around structure.

Morman Trail (Adair): Fishing is fair for bluegills off the rocky shoreline along south side of lake. Channel catfish fishing is fair using liver and prepared baits.

Littlefield (Audubon): Anglers are catching a few bluegills by drifting night crawlers, but overall fishing is slow. Crappie fishing is slow drifting minnows. A few channel catfish are being caught using liver or cut bait.

Anita (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The south boat ramp can be used with a small (14 foot) boat. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good. Fishing for 12 to 15-inch largemouth bass has been good.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing for wipers has improved using twister tails and shad colored crankbaits along east shoreline and around swimming beach. Walleye fishing is slow trolling crankbaits along west shore. Channel catfish has slowed. Some are being caught at night with shrimp or cut bait.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is fair using jigs and minnows around deep structure. Channel catfish is fair in shallow areas using night crawlers or blood bait. Carp are being caught mostly on dough balls.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Crappies are fair drift fishing using jigs tipped with a minnow. Channel catfish fishing is slow on liver and prepared baits along rocky shorelines. Bluegills have slowed, but a few are being caught drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Willow (Harrison): Fishing for channel catfish is fair using liver in west arm of lake. A few bluegills are being caught using night crawlers under a bobber.

Farm Ponds: Fishing is good for bluegills using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is also good. Channel catfishing is also fair using night crawlers in the evenings.

Contact: Chris Larson (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 64 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 11.80 feet. Water levels are expected to remain stable over the next several days.

Fishing has been fair on **Pools 16 to 19** of the Mississippi River. Walleye and sauger fishing has been fair off the wing dams. On **Pool 16**, try near the Riverfront area at Davenport, on the wing dams around Credit Island, the I-280 Bridge, and the mouth of the Rock River. Try fishing walleye and sauger with jigs tipped with night crawlers, leeches or minnows, or trolling crankbaits. Channel catfishing has been fair on **Pools 16 to 19** on night crawlers, shrimp or minnows. Crappie and bluegill fishing continues to be fair off the wing dams, below the Arsenal Dam in upper **Pool 16** and in the backwaters: try Sunset Marina and Andalusia, in **Pool 16**, Big Timber Area, in **Pool 17**, Huron Island **Pool 18**, and Lake Odessa **Pools 17/18**. Fishing has been good for freshwater drum on night crawlers. Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair in **Pool 16** in the Sylvan Slough area.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Fishing is good for bluegills and crappies as the fish respond to the falling water temperature and start to fatten up for the fall. Water levels are rising as the lake is being brought up to the fall water level.

Lake Darling (Washington): Look for catfish to be working the riprap looking for crawdads and bluegills. Largemouth bass will be in those same areas.

Lake Geode (Henry): Anglers have been catching bluegills and crappies in 10 to 15 feet of water. Cold weather forecasted should bring these fish in shallow during the next warm up.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing is excellent and good numbers of 9 to 12-inch fish are being caught. They are in 20 feet of water but the cold front forecasted to move through later this week should change that.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow. Try areas with standing timber or areas with sunken cedar trees. Walleyes have been hitting on jigs tipped with a minnow. The most productive areas are around riprapped shorelines or other rocky areas. Bluegills have been biting on small jigs in some of the areas holding crappies.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow being drifted in the middle section of the lake. Some bluegills are being caught using the same technique. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a number of artificial presentations.

Lake Keomah (Mahaska): Bluegills have been biting on small jigs tipped with a wax worm fished around the shoreline and underwater brush piles. Largemouth bass have been hitting on spinner baits and other artificial lures in the same areas.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): White bass have been biting on twister tails and crankbaits. Windblown points in the coves have been the most productive areas. Crappies have been hitting on small jigs when fished around structure. Some crappies have also been hitting on crankbaits being drifted or trolled around areas with cedar trees or other underwater structure. Walleyes have been hitting on crankbaits being drifted or trolled around underwater rock reefs or islands.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Some largemouth bass are being caught on a more regular basis now as the fish are beginning to move shallower. Crappies are starting to show up in the catch now. There are lots of 6 to 7-inch fish biting with some bigger ones mixed in. Fish seem to be suspended, some in open water, but fish in the brush piles are easier to located.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): White bass are being taken on a regular basis on most flashy baits. Many of the rocky shorelines are producing well. Some nice crappies are also being picked up on jigs. Brush piles seem to be the best areas but some fish are suspended on the rock bluffs.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Bluegills and crappies are being taken from the jetties. Try suspending a jig or worm under a bobber for best results. Anglers should try deeper water and around structure for larger fish.

Hannan Lake (Benton): Anglers are catching bluegills, some up to 11 inches long, in deeper water around the sunken brush piles.

Union Grove (Tama): Fish around any of the brush piles for crappies and a few bluegills. Some brush piles are accessible from shore, but the best ones are reached by boat.

Iowa River (Louisa): Catfishing has been good as the fish are starting their fall feeding frenzy. Night crawlers and minnows are working the best.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

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